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HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS  
P.O. BOX 828

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48303  
U.S.A.

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287637 HARNES UR  
TELEFACSIMILE  
(248) 641-0270

August 8, 2002

VIA DHL

Jean-Baptiste Thiebaut  
42 boulevard Saint-Marcel  
75005 Paris France

Re: Our Ref: 5074A-000013/REA

Dear Mr. Thiebaut:

As you may be aware, Medtronic Inc. is currently the owner of U.S. Patent 5,868,675, on which you are named an inventor. Medtronic Inc. has filed a reissue patent application to correct defects in the issued U.S. Patent. Specifically, Claim 14 does not specifically claim the use of an endoscopic viewing system.

Procedures before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office require your signature, as an inventor, acknowledging that there is a defect within the issued U.S. Patent. Please find enclosed a copy of a French/English language declaration for your review and signature. Please also find for your convenience, a copy of the issued U.S. Patent and return self-addressed pre-paid envelope. Please execute and date the enclosed declaration and return these documents via the enclosed envelope.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us. My direct dial line is 248 641-1271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Warner".  
Richard W. Warner

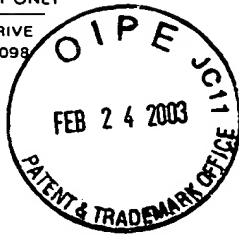
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Exhibit A  
Page 1 of 6

HARNES, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
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VIA DHL

Jean-Baptiste Thiebaut  
39 Rue Pre Saint Gervais  
Paris 75019 France

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August 8, 2002

VIA DHL

Jean Francois UHL  
49 Avenue de Versailles  
75016 Paris France

Re: Our Ref: 5074A-000013/REA

Dear Sir:

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Jean Francois UHL  
12 rue du Regard  
92380 Garche France

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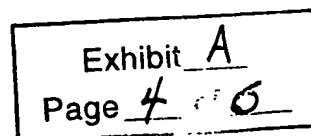
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August 8, 2002

VIA DHL

Joel Henrion  
Route de Chalons  
51600 Suippes France

Re: Our Ref: 5074A-000013/REA

Dear Mr. Henrion:

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VIA DHL

Michel Scriban  
72 Chemin de Carpon  
69360 Ternay France

Re: Our Ref: 5074A-000013/REA

Dear Mr. Scriban:

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